

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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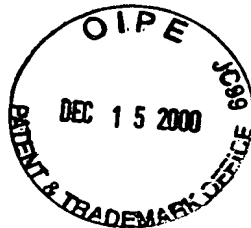
In re application of

Jean OLLIVIER

Serial No.: 09/400,994

Filed: September 21, 1999

For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF LACTAMS FROM THE
CORRESPONDING CYCLOALKANONE OXIMES



Group Art Unit: 1624

Examiner: B. Kifle

TECH CENTER 1600/21

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed September 15, 2000, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below, and consider the remarks that follow.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claim as follows.

20. (Amended) In a process for the preparation of lactams comprising 6 to 12 carbon atoms from the corresponding cycloalkanone oximes by rearrangement according to the Beckman reaction in the presence of acid, the improvement wherein said acid [consisting] consists essentially of methanesulphonic acid.

REMARKS

Double-Patenting

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Please find attached a Terminal Disclaimer obviating the provisional obviousness-double patenting rejection to claims 1-21 in view of co-pending Application Serial No. 09/400,996. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that the double-patenting rejections should be withdrawn.

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